

Minutes of the Board of Trustees
North Little Rock Public Library
Regular Meeting
Monday, September 15, 2025 @ 5:30 PM

The Board met in the Art Gallery at Laman Library with Mr. Sonny Rhodes calling the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Those present were Ms. Crystal Gates, CEO/Chief Librarian; Mr. Rhodes, President; Ms. Katie Phippin; Vice President; Mr. Charley Baxter; and Ms. Esther Crawford. Also present: Ms. Robin Campbell, Ms. Bekah Hedges, Ms. Jamie Middleton, Ms. Stacy Purdy, Mr. Richard Theilig, and Ms. Lacy Wolfe.

On motion by Ms. Crawford, second by Ms. Phippin, the absences of Ms. Joyce Brewer, Ms. Kim Drake, and Ms. Jenny Heard were approved. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Ms. Phippin, second Ms. Crawford to approve the minutes of July 21, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Baxter thanked Chief Finance Officer Stacy Purdy for providing a summary of financial activities. Motion Ms. Crawford, second Ms. Phippin, to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Gates highlighted the continued growth of library programming. Motion Ms. Phippin, second Mr. Baxter to approve the Statistical Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Gates presented the PTO balance and activities from the CEO's Report, noting updates to her American Library Association committee memberships. She has transitioned from serving on ALA's Committee on Diversity to the Core Ecosystem Committee. She also invited questions about other Executive Summary Reports. In the Chief Operating Officer's Report, Ms. Wolfe outlined the Power of the Card partnership with five surrounding library systems, upcoming staff initiatives, such as Spanish language classes, and the 16 staff members presenting sessions and posters at the Arkansas Library Association's upcoming annual conference. Ms. Hedges introduced the One Community, One Book program and shared copies of this year's title, Michiko Aoyama's *What You Are Looking for Is in the Library*.

In a Facilities Update, Ms. Gates reported on delays with the Laman Library roof replacement, planning for Argenta Library's roof replacement, and the return of the Rover mobile library.

Ms. Gates presented updates to several policies, including General Wage and Salary, Punctuality, Background Checks, Equal Employment Opportunity, Personnel Policy Revisions, Employee Information Change Form, Policy Statements, Library Mission Statement, and Employee Emergency Procedures.

Ms. Gates also noted upcoming events, including the Third Friday Art Walk at Argenta Library and Innovation Hub and Staff-Wide Training on October 13.

The next regular meeting is set for November 17, 2025.

During Board Member Comments, Mr. Rhodes noted his recent visit to the New York Public Library and invited attendance at the November 1 Trail of Tears historical marker dedication at the North Little Rock Riverfront.

With no further business to discuss, motion Ms. Crawford, second Ms. Phippin to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Crystal Gates, Secretary